

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/758,683

Applicant(s)

KASUYA, YOSHIAKI

Examiner

Tat Chi Chio

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>4/5/2001</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to a synchronizer for compulsorily synchronizing a plurality of video players for simultaneous display of correlated pictures. Independent claim 1 identifies the uniquely distinct features "a play synchronization circuit connected to the vertical sync pulse separator circuits and the reference moment determination circuit for production of a plurality of phase departure signals each indicative of a phase departure, if any, of each vertical sync pulse of one series of such pulses from the reference moment determined in relation to one associated vertical sync pulse of the selected series of such pulses, the phase departure signals being for delivery one to each video player for causing the video players to produce the series of vertical sync pulses in phase with each other."

Independent claim 10 identifies the uniquely distinct features "a play synchronization circuit comprising a first and a second D flip-flop having clock inputs connected respectively to the first and the second vertical sync pulse separator circuit, reset inputs connected to the reference moment determination circuit, and data inputs connected to a supply terminal, for production of a first phase departure signal indicative of a phase departure, if any, of each vertical sync pulse of the first series from the reference moment determined in relation to one associated vertical sync pulse of the selected series, and a second phase departure signal indicative of a phase departure, if any, of each vertical sync pulse of the second series from the reference moment

determined in relation to one associated vertical sync pulse of the selected series, the first and the second phase departure signal being for delivery to the first and the second video player, respectively, for causing the same to synchronize the first and the second series of vertical sync pulses.”

Independent claim 17 identifies the uniquely distinct features “a play synchronization circuit comprising a first and a second and a third D flip-flop having clock inputs connected respectively to the first and the second and the third vertical sync pulse separator circuit, reset inputs connected to the reference moment determination circuit, and data inputs connected to a supply terminal, for production of a first phase departure signal indicative of a phase departure, if any, of each vertical sync pulse of the first series from the reference moment determined in relation to one associated vertical sync pulse of the selected series, a second phase departure signal indicative of a phase departure, if any, of each vertical sync pulse of the second series from the reference moment determined in relation to one associated vertical sync pulse of the selected series, and a third phase departure signal indicative of a phase departure, if any, of each vertical sync pulse of the third series from the reference moment determined in relation to one associated vertical sync pulse of the selected series, the first and the second and the third phase departure signal being for delivery to the first and the second and the third video player, respectively, for causing the same to synchronize the first and the second and the third series of vertical sync pulses.”

Independent claim 22 identifies the uniquely distinct features “a play synchronization circuit connected to the vertical sync pulse separator circuits and the

reference moment determination circuit for production of a plurality of phase departure signals each indicative of a phase departure, if any, of each vertical sync pulse of one series of such pulses from the reference moment determined in relation to one associated vertical sync pulse of the selected series of such pulses” and “drive means in each video player for creating relative scanning motion between a transducer and the video storage medium, the drive means being connected to the play synchronization circuit for reducing the phase departure of the vertical sync pulse from the reference moment in response to one phase departure signal from the play synchronization circuit.”

The closest prior art of record, Hall et al. (6,141,062) discloses an apparatus that combines video streams to be displayed on multi-image video display device, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render any of the above underlined limitation obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tat Chi Chio whose telephone number is (571) 272-9563. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM-6:00 PM EST.

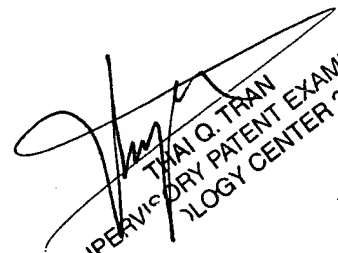
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on (571)-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TCC


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